



USGS Survey

Kmkdvm 10: Dave Novak, Shari Kolak

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Re: The Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site

There has been scant mention of the USGS Study on the removal of dams on the Kalamazoo River. Initially we were told that the study was "to determine what would happen to the sediment behind the state-owned dams if the dams were removed. USGS is trying to determine where the sediment would erode and aggrade within the current channel if the dams were to catastrophically fail, and how much sediment would become mobile if this were to happen. USGS is also studying other effects of removing the dams, and they are collecting data on the sediment and on discharges into the river at two points in the study area." (from the EPA Sept, 2003 bulletin)

Then we were told that the USGS only studied the effects of catastrophic failure of the dams. Why was this the only focus of the study? Although dam failure could indeed happen, this information is only useful to spur some more definitive action; it is not an option to choose. The two choices for potential actions by the agencies involved are either to leave the dams and maintain their integrity or to remove the dams. Why didn't the USGS investigate the consequences of the two actionable options?

And when is the USGS study going to be made available for public review?

How is the USGS study going to be used by the modeling team?

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